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New township council to tackle issue
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INPORT NEWS



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■ **WAINFLEET LEVEE**

Mayor listening to local residents

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — With pen and paper in hand, Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs was ready to take note of any residents' concerns.

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redplum

■ **PORT COLBORNE LEVEE:** Badaway says city will be busy

'Hit the ground running:' mayor



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Port Colborne Ward 2 Coun. Yvon Doucet, left, and Mayor Vance Badaway, right, discuss roadway issues with resident George Bosak during the new year levee at city hall.

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — "Get your running shoes on?"

It's the question Mayor Vance Badaway posed to Port Colborne city councillors who walked the city's council chambers last Sunday.

Council plans to "hit the ground running" in 2011, he said while hosting the new year levee.

"It's going to be a busy year."

Residents made their way to city hall Sunday to discuss issues with the mayor and councillors, meet the new faces now sitting at the horse-shoe and to hear the plan of action for 2011.

What are a number of issues council is hoping to tackle this year, Badaway said "our biggest priority continues to be health care."

see PORT COLBORNE page 2

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■ WAINFLEET

A chance to hear the concerns of residents

FROM PAGE 1

Along with the township's aldermen—Richard Dykstra, Ted Hessel, Betty Konec and David Wyman—Jeffs held the annual new year levee in council chambers last Saturday afternoon.

The levee, a first for the newly-elected Jeffs, allows Wainfleet residents the opportunity to speak with members of the council, share their thoughts, ask questions and get to know those who are representing them at the municipal level.

For Jeffs, it was not only an opportunity to meet those she had missed along the campaign trail in last fall's election, but also a chance to hear the issues constituents hoped to see her and council tackle this year.

"I want to take as detailed notes as possible so I can bring any concerns forward to the new council," Jeffs told The Tribune, taking a momentary break from the many residents vying for her time.



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff photo

Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs, left, listens to the concerns of resident Valerie Caster during the new year levee held at council chambers last Saturday afternoon.

"I definitely want to hear what they have to say."

She said she enjoyed the

levee format, a more informal gathering that allows constituents to "put a face to

the name" of those who were elected.

"Wainfleet is so small, it's

like a neighbourhood, one big family," Jeffs said.

She said the relaxed atmo-

sphere of the levee "maintains that flavour of Wainfleet, of a close community."

Jeffs said the "empowered" people in town can go directly to the mayor or aldermen to discuss their problems.

Though she could not predict the issues that would come forward on Saturday, Jeffs said she would "few prominent topics" she heard while going door-to-door during the election campaign that she expected would reappear.

As Jeffs had predicted, residents discussed concerns with sewer and water in the town, as well as wind farms potentially moving to the area, and of proposed road name changes.

Many residents also came forward with more "individualized" concerns, Jeffs said, which she was happy to add to her growing list of items to look into.

mfirth@wellandtribune.ca

■ PORT COLBORNE

Economic development is at the top of council's 2011 agenda

FROM PAGE 1

The city will continue to ensure the Ministry of Health, Niagara Health System, and Local Health Integration Network recognize the health care needs both in Port Colborne and the rest of the region, he said.

"This is not going to go away," Badaway said, adding that the city will continue to work as long as it takes to solidify equitable access to health care for all."

Throughout the upcoming year council will also be keeping economic development "front and centre" on

its agenda.

Both Port Colborne and Niagara as a whole have a lot to offer, Badaway said, adding it is just a matter of the municipalities using their strengths to promote the region's assets.

"We are putting in place initiatives to try and stimulate the economy," he said

in pointing out that several Community Improvement Plans being established throughout the region.

Work to both maintain and improve Port Colborne's infrastructure will also be a priority this year, Badaway said.

"At the end of the day, the infrastructure here needs to

be maintained... it's unacceptable to have pipes in the ground from 1920."

Residents who are unable to offer the level of service needed in the city will be replaced, he said.

The new multi-use sports complex with two arenas and a pool will be tendered this month, with a deci-

sion expected by council in February. If all goes as planned, construction will begin in March or April of this year.

"Council, staff, they're up for it. We're all ready to go," Badaway said of the year ahead.

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■ **BIG PIPE:** High cost

Service debate on tap in Wainfleet

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Cost

That's what it comes down to for Betty Konc when talking about the water and sewer servicing project — the Big Pipe — for the lakeshore area of the township.

Konc has been tackling the issue for the past six years as a private citizen and now will come at it from the political side as an alderman for Wainfleet (she was elected to council this past October).

The Big Pipe project, which could see water/sewer lines run the length of Lakeshore Rd. through the township, is estimated to cost at least \$63 million.

"It's a huge cost and it's just a pennymiser's cost," says Konc. "People may be forced to sell their homes because they can't afford to stay in them."

Depending on how close a home is to the pipe, the cost of running water and sewer from home to main could be very high. In the past, Niagara Region has said it could be \$20,000 to hook up a home.

That's the cost that would be borne by homeowners.

Newly elected Mayor April Jeffs said people across the township have made it clear they do not want the Big Pipe to help solve the municipality's water quality problem and they told her it would be too expensive for everyone in the township.

Jeffs and Konc both said with Wainfleet sitting on very hard rock, costs to install the pipe along the road could actually increase.

The lakeshore area sits on chert and it is very hard rock.



The Big Pipe project, which could see water/sewer lines run the length of Lakeshore Rd. through the township, is estimated to cost at least \$63 million. That's a cost that Wainfleet residents can't afford, say the mayor and one alderman.

Blasting through that rock or using other methods is not cheap," said Konc.

Though the pipe is still just a proposal, the project has already cost Niagara taxpayers more than \$2 million in studies.

The cost of the proposed project to date and potential future costs may not fit on the regional councillors' says, especially those newly-elected.

The alderman, one of the founders of Wainfleet Ratepayers Association, which was formed to fight the Big Pipe, questions the need of the pipe in general.

Homelands along the lakeshore have been under a boil water advisory for nearly four years now because of health and safety issues relating to contaminated groundwater due to leaking septic systems, but not all homes are affected by the problem.

Konc says there are 1,250 properties along the lakeshore area and 1,000 of those homes have potable water, so installing an estimated \$63-million pipeline for the other third doesn't make any sense.

Jeffs has heard the same figures as Konc.

"It tells me the Big Pipe is not the solution. There seems to be pockets of problems," says Jeffs.

Septic systems broken or leaking, septic systems can be repaired or replaced.

Konc says that would make much more sense and be cheaper in the long run. Installing water purification/tratment systems on individual properties is another way to ensure no one becomes sick because of possible contamination.

"The Muskoka Lakes area had the same problem. What they did was went up on side of the road inspecting septic systems and had people fix or replace them. The next year they went down the other side of the road and did the same," Konc says.

Septic systems take place every other year in Muskoka Lakes, Konc says there's no reason that couldn't be done in Wainfleet.

Another measure taken in that area was a development freeze, something that could also be done along the lake shore in the township.

Jeffs says residents are afraid the Big Pipe along the lakeshore would lead to more development and people don't want to see that

happen.

"It's a genuine concern," she adds.

Konc would like council to repeal a bylaw agreeing to an environmental assessment along the lakeshore and for township staff to start researching the issue.

This is the last year, she says, Wainfleet couldn't go the route of Muskoka Lakes and take care of everything on its own.

"Council would have to be the will to do that."

During the last year, council member Konc, who she advised her fellow aldermen she'll be bringing forward a notice of motion on Jan. 11 on the water and sewer servicing project, though she did not say what the motion would entail.

The mayor who was on the water and sewer servicing project public liaison committee, believes there is a home-grown solution to the problem.

She says council seems to be on the same page when it comes to this issue.

"We can get township staff to start looking into solution."

Jeffs says studies already conducted by the region would be a good starting point for Wainfleet staff.

"We can find some value in them and see where direction we need to take."

"We need to make informed decisions, what the best fit is for the town and the rest of the township and what we can do in interest of the Wainfleet community."

She says whatever is decided, council has to engage the community in the decision-making process.

"Some people have already said they would have a say in this. We have been told that it will be up to Wainfleet on the direction we'd like to take on this issue," says Jeffs.

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Betty Konc

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ourview

Reviving a highway

Ontario Progressive Conservative Party Leader Tim Hudak has brought the mid-peninsula corridor highway back to life.

Hudak, who is Niagara West-Glanbrook MPP, said the highway is needed, despite the fact a provincial study concluded it wasn't necessary.

"I want to revive the mid-peninsula corridor," he said recently while talking about his priorities for 2011. "It would create badly needed jobs and economic growth for the region."

The party leader said the highway would not only create jobs, but create a vital transportation link for the region and the province.

The highway has had support from Niagara politicians and business leaders, but in the summer a draft study by the Ministry of Transportation said the four-lane super-highway won't be necessary for at least 20 years.

Liberal St. Catharines MPP Jim Bradley dismissed Hudak's idea last week.

"We've invested heavily into the expansion of the QEW to improve transportation in Niagara," Bradley said. "I think the report indicated clearly we don't need a new highway right now."

Bradley is right, transportation has improved in Niagara, at least for Niagara north.

South Niagara still lacks a major transportation link to the QEW and beyond.

Yes, Hwy. 406 is expanding to four lanes between Port Robinson and Welland, but that expansion is years behind where it should be.

Hudak's party promised an expansion of that highway nearly a decade ago, but it never went forward. And while the Liberals are moving ahead on expansion, it still does nothing for the southern end of the region.

Even when the 406 is complete, the only connection to Port Erie is Hwy. 140. That highway is still two lanes wide and though it recently was repaired in the Port Colborne, it would have to expand again.

A link through the middle of the region would make it easy for goods to be moved in and out of the region and help Port Colborne and Port Erie. It could also help ease congestion on the QEW.

With Port Colborne ready to expand its industrial area to the east side of the Welland Canal, a mid-peninsula corridor would make a lot of sense. It would clearly help the city in its efforts to attract industry.

We understand last year's study said the highway wasn't necessary, but ask the mayors of Port Erie and Port Colborne what they think and we're sure you'll find they're in agreement with Hudak.

If Hudak and his party are elected next time around, we'll see how high of a priority it truly is.

I'VE BEEN THINKING

Epiphany and Baptism

FR. DAVID GRAHAM SCOTT
St. Ignatius of Antioch Orthodox Church

January 6 is the date for celebrating Christ's baptism in the Jordan River. For those Orthodox like the Ukrainians who follow the old calendar, Epiphany comes thirteen days later on January 19. For Antiochian Orthodox, fixed feast days like Christmas and Epiphany are celebrated according to the new calendar, which is used in civil society.

Among western churches Epiphany marks the arrival of the magi or wise men to worship Christ in Joseph's Bethlehem house (Matthew 2). Eastern Orthodoxy celebrated the arrival of the magi along with the shepherds at Christ's Nativity. We celebrate Christ's baptism and his "baptism into death" on December 12 (January 1 (Luke 2:1 & 39-50). For us, therefore, January 6 marks the celebration of Christ's appearance to the world as John baptizes him in the River Jordan.

Two miraculous events took place at Jesus' baptism. The heavens opened

and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven saying, "You are my beloved Son; in You I am well pleased." These declarations evoke the royal psalm 2 and the suffering servant passage of Isaiah 42.

For the Church Christ's baptism revealed that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one in essence, three in persons or hypostases. And so we baptize in the Name (note the singular) of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

Fr. Thomas Hopko writes the Christ's baptism symbolizes four aspects of the mystery of Christ and the purpose of his coming.

First, baptism symbolizes death and resurrection. Christ came to die for our sins and to rise from the grave, justification—for our being right with God. Christ's willingness to die for us shows his solidarity with the human race.

Second, baptism is a symbol of repentance of sin and its forgiveness.

For Christ came as the Lamb of God to take upon himself the sin of the world in order to take it away. And my commitment to turn away from sin and turn to Christ opens my heart to God, who will change me day by day (2 Cor 4:16) to be more faithful and loving like his Son Jesus.

Third, baptism is a symbol of sanctification—of being made holy. The descent of the Holy Spirit on Christ showed that he is the One whom John prophesied would baptize with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11).

Fourth, baptism is a symbol of radical renewal. When one is baptized, the old is over and the new has come (Romans 6). A chapter in life is ended and a new chapter begins. Christ has approached on earth to bring all things ultimately to an end and to make all things new.

Baptism therefore contains in symbol the entire mystery of Christ and the whole purpose of his coming. Epiphany and baptism are good news indeed.

readers' views

Our deepest gratitude

Our mom was a resident of Northland Pointe for approximately eight years.

During her residency there, she was treated with respect, courtesy, dignity, love, care and compassion that went beyond the call of duty from all, staff, caregivers and supervisors.

During her last days (Dec. 1 to Dec. 11) the love, professional care, devotion, compassion given to mom and family members far surpassed human ability.

Words cannot express our deepest appreciation to all that took time to come and visit and say their last goodbyes to a "lady" that made all laugh and angry at the same time.

Dear mom was an exceptional lady. The nurses that took care of mom did so as if she was their own mom or grandmother.

To the "Angels of God" who work at Northland Pointe,

Our deepest gratitude.

The Domenicucci and Nuccitelli families
Port Colborne

Thanks to community

A special thank you for supporting Santa's Helpers Christmas Food and Toy Program in Port Colborne and

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Wainfleet

We were overwhelmed by the generosity of this Community and the effort to make this project successful.

You have made a lot out of it, makes our work so much more enjoyable. Santa's Helpers assisted 370 less fortunate households in our community, food was distributed for a total of 1,060 persons, 500 children up to the age of 16 received toys/gifts or gift certificate from a local store, stocking stuffers, knitted items such as mitts, hats, scarves and much more.

Each household received a generous food hamper, a ham and a food voucher for meat, dairy products, fruit and produce.

Santa's Helpers was established 1987, and is an entirely volunteer group with a single objective: to assemble and distribute food boxes, new toys and gifts to those families registered through the central registry.

The Santa's Helpers committee wishes everyone a happy and prosperous 2011.

Mikea Van Es
Co-ordinator, Santa's Helpers
Port Colborne

Be factual

Re: *Sharing the air* (Jan. 7)

Considering that IPC Energy is receiving tax subsidized incentives from the

Ontario government, to the tune of 400% over the current market value for what they claim their turbines will produce, I think it should be incumbent on any stakeholder to be questioning the company to at least hear factual.

I think the Wainfleet public have a right to know exactly what is meant by the comment with regard to moving the proposed turbines sites, quote: "Due to setbacks and safe setbacks offshore property, that's not possible."

Minimum setbacks for offshore turbines have recently been increased, by both Denmark and the U.K., to 10 and 12 kilometres respectively. Ontario, of course, still claims five kilometres 'safe' for offshore turbines.

Extending power lines to those distant offshore cannot possibly be simple or economical as extending safe setbacks onshore, so safe, onshore setbacks are no practical or engineering problem.

Availability of property is not IPC Energy's concern, it should only be the concern of Wainfleet's residents and its property owners. I think it is appropriate to find an appropriate land to purchase in order to protect Wainfleet residents and their businesses who they certainly do not have the right just to ignore them.

see LETTERS page 5

■ LETTERS

FROM PAGE 4

To actually claim that even considering moving the sites concerned is 'not possible' is patently not true.

"To add insult to injury, IPC Energy's spokespeople have the audacity to whine, quote: 'We'd also take a loss.'

I thought wind energy was about the environment, free wind energy and being green? IPC Energy and other wind energy companies are already being subsidized to an excessive extent by the already overburdened Ontario taxpayer. I wonder if they are not perhaps they can't make enough profit? Perhaps they are in the wrong business?

And it is strange that in spite of the fact IPC Energy have not yet confirmed a promised second public meeting in Wainfleet, and before announcing the final plans and sites for the proposed turbines, there are already sites that regarding these as yet unconfirmed sites, moving these 'unconfirmed' sites is 'not possible'?

Perhaps I'm missing something?

Andrew Watts

Wainfleet

Who's really creating the turbulence?

Re: Sharing the air (Jan. 7).

It is interesting to see the number of articles that have been written regarding the Burnaby Skyline club and its concerns with two of the wind turbines that are located 1.7 km from its landing zone. What is interesting is the fact that there has been no investigation into these claims and concerns raised

by Skyline Burnaby's Mike Pitt. We have taken the time to read the attached Parachute Information Manual put out by the Canadian Sport Parachuting Association which clearly outlines the safety requirements for landing zones.

This can be found on page 8 of the manual and it reads as follows.

3.1 Landing clearances

Areas used for regular parachuting operations shall be unobstructed, with the following minimum distances from the target in every direction to the nearest hazard: Student, Solo, A/B CoP: 325 ft, 100m, and C/D CoP: 300 ft, 90m

Handars are defined as:

Transmission lines, open bodies of water, fences, over 2.5 metres in height, tower buildings, goalposts and lamp standards, well travelled roadways, trees, above canopy height and large forested areas.

You could literally build the SkyDome at that distance and it would not be considered an obstruction.

There are also many other safety issues in the manual such as minimum wind speed for novice jumpers and height for performing the chutes.

If Mr. Pitt is observing the rules in this manual, then there should be absolutely no problem operating his jump school safely with these turbines at 1.7 km from his landing zone. He has also stated that turbulence would have an effect on the drops.

However, this is passive turbulence from the turbines, the extent of which would be at least 1 km from the drop zone in high wind conditions.

These turbines are being pushed by the wind. They are not fans driving the wind and therefore the turbulence is minimal at worst.

I would be grateful if Mr. Pitt does not clearly understand that his position is not rational and I am disappointed nobody from the press has actually investigated his claims to see if they are merited.

This makes me wonder — what are Mr. Pitt's true motives. He has managed to create quite a stir in the press and around the community over a non-issue.

John Andrews
President, IPC Energy
Mississauga

A little common sense

To the president of IPC Energy for enlightening us on the "non-issue" of wind turbines and Skyline Burnaby. Unfortunately, it seems to me Wainfleet is full of "non-issues" depending on who one talks to.

Be that as it may, I am disturbed by the fact that, as a municipality, we

have a say in what happens to us, but are a body of people who, according to those who are elected here decide that something is going to be done, then we can jump through all kinds of hoops for years and years enabling other people to make money off us.

I'm getting tired of this.

If we in Ontario's Green Energy Act says we must have the turbines, then why are we wasting our time going to meeting after meeting on the subject? We "fucked out" in Ontario and got a premier who set up agreements to pay many times the going rate for "green" energy from wind turbines while simultaneously not doing the proper math to see if the turbines would even run in order to provide instant backup when the sun goes down or the wind drops, or both. He justifies this while wearing a reasonably straight face and without asking or the people living here, what we or want.

Or maybe the did. Who knows? I don't care who did what, but I resent the fact that I have to watch the clock to do basic household chores in my leisure time. With all the brains in the world, something should be done to make life more enjoyable. No wonder so many people are ill.

Time to get priorities straight and

that is our environment, since, if we are in on doing what we're doing, then heaven help us all. A little common sense would help.

Pat Cusack
Wainfleet

How many turbines are in the works?

It's nice to see the president of IPC Energy prepared to do his homework and overnight become enough of an "expert" on wind turbines and starting a skydiving club to dominate and insult someone who has been involved with this activity/business all of his life.

It would be so refreshing to hear Andrews' views on the 70-plus municipalities, many already suffering from these massive wind turbines, currently developing in their area. Provincial government introduce a moratorium on any further industrial wind turbines until independent, open and transparent investigations are carried out to assess the potential health risks to those living close to such turbines and the potential devaluation of a citizens most valuable asset, their homes.

SEE LETTERS page 6

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The scent hounds of Group 2 – part 4

The Rhodesian Ridgeback was originally known as the African Lion Dog. He is the only breed recognized as originating in South Africa. He was developed from the aggressive semi-wild dogs owned by the Zulu and native tribes of east Africa.

A South African big game hunter wanted dogs that he could use to hunt lions. So he developed what he called



Sandie Bingley
IT'S A
DOG'S LIFE

his Lion Dogs back in the 1800's. He wanted a large dog with speed, scenting ability, endurance, agility and biting power. They looked like a small Great Dane with a fearless ability to hunt lions.

He could run a pack of three dogs and they would chase down even a group of five lions.

These dogs are also the only breed of dog with a ridge of hair growing backwards down the middle of their backs with two circles at the top. It looks some what like a lion's mane or ruff. As the breed developed the name was changed to the Rhodesian Ridgeback as the original name gave

the impression of a savage, ferocious animal. They are great scent hounds to care for and easy to train. They are dignified, aloof with strangers and great protectors of home and family.

The Otterhound originated in Britain and has a different look than most hounds as he has very long, drooping, shaggy coat. He was developed to hunt down the river otters that were eating up great quantities of fish in

the rivers and streams.

The Otterhound has a great scent sense and great stamina and he can swim for hours on end even in the coldest water. But once the otter became a protected species, the Otterhound was out of a job so he needed to be retrained. He then developed to take and hunt mink, raccoons, and even bear and mountain lions successfully. He is very energetic, likes to be active. He needs lots of water play to be happy but he is very easy tempered and friendly to people.

The Northern European hounds have a different look than most of the hounds that have dropped ears and loose lips. These hounds have a fox or wolf like appearance and a tail with a tight curl over the back. They have a thick, dense coat to suit the climate of the northern countries. These northern breeds are known as "spitz type" dogs.

The Norwegian Elkhound is the national dog of Norway. He originated from a mouse in Norway, but his name got translated to Elkhound instead of Mousehound. He is a very old breed that was used by the Vikings. He is a "spitz" type dog that looks somewhat like a small, square German Shepherd Dog, with a tight curl over his back. He is dark in colour. The Vikings used him to hunt moose but they also used him to herd the flocks, guard the flocks and hunt

other animals such as elk, lynx, bobcats and even birds.

Although a great, fearless hunter, he is very loyal to his master. He is a wonderful family dog today and is known for being very good with children. He makes a great house pet but does enjoy being outdoors in all types of weather.

The Finnish Spitz is the national dog of Finland. He has a beautiful reddish-gold coat and is the size and shape of a red fox. He is a fury tail that curls up tight over his back. The Finnish Spitz was used to hunt foxes and to hunt everything from squirrels to bears. He is also good at hunting feathered game as well.

Today they have become very popular as family pets as he is a good house dog, great with children and also a fearless guardian. Hopefully there won't be any squirrels living in the trees around his house as his ancient hunting skills will be triggered.

Now the final hounds are seldom seen here in North America. These hounds have names that won't be familiar to you.

The Drevet, the Harrier, the Norwegian Lundehund and the Nordbottenspets come from Britain, Norway and Sweden. You can use the Internet to learn about them. Good luck with your search.

Next time we will move to the dogs of Group 3 – the Working Group

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- Form layout designer
- Contracts officer
- Media relations director
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They actually supply less than 1% of the province's energy needs.

The "experts" within the wind energy industry must know just how many more will they need to provide a 30% capacity? The communists targeted for future industrial wind turbines deserve that information at the very least. Andrew Watts Wainfleet

■ **JUNIORS:** It may not be gold, but it's still a precious medal ...

There's silver in them there duffle bags

It was one hell of a party. For two periods, anyway.

Then the Russians pulled out their guns and began shooting. Suddenly, the party was over. And the wounded were many among the thousands at the HSBC Arena in Buffalo.

But it was an amazing day, last



George Duma
BY GEORGE

Wednesday was.
The gold medal game at the



GEORGE DUMA InPort News photo

Hockey icon Scotty Bowman, centre, gets set to drop the ceremonial puck prior to the Canada-Russia game last Wednesday.

World Junior Hockey Championship was all one could expect it to be and more.

It was thrilling, goose-bump inducing and, finally, heart-wrenching and heartbreaking.

How else to describe an event that saw thousands upon thousands of Canadians dressed in red and white — us included — sitting in the stands cheering on their young lads. And emphasis on young.

They stop for all reasons. Let's never lose sight of that. Through two periods they carried the hopes of an entire nation on their shoulders proudly.

They tamed an amazingly talented Russian hockey club by

sheer will, determination and hard work.

They built a 3-0 lead and had most in the building simply waiting for the end of the game so we could watch the silver medals being hung on the racks.

It was euphoric.

The second intermission was an ongoing party, one where fans were relaxed and high-fiving one another throughout the arena.

It was over.

All the boys had to do was continue playing their game and it didn't matter if they scored another goal or not.

They were riding a wave.
Then came the third period.
The wave hit shore.

The Russian boys scored a goal. Then, 13 seconds later, another. Suddenly, it's a brand new hockey game — with overtime looming.

And so, thinking, well overtime would be a shootout, that's not a fair way to determine a gold medal.

Too much pressure on the goaltenders.

As a former one myself and stepped to one, I can understand just how hard it is to face the goal crease much less for goalies a shootout. Never had to face that myself, or watch our boy in that situation, think goodness.

see DUMA page 8

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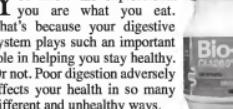
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A dream come true for a junior hockey fan

FROM PAGE 7

Now, as an arm-chair critic who has never played hockey in his life and has no right whatsoever to question Canada's coach

Dave Cameron, the question still begs asking: why not call a timeout and settle the youngsters down after the Russians scored two quick goals?
Just saying.

Instead, Coach Cameron waits until the third one goes by Mark Visentin — normally the goalie for the Niagara Ice Dogs — before calling one and getting his boys over to the bench.

By that time, of course, it's too late. The horses are long gone. It's far too late to shut the barn door.

Two more goals and it's all over. The third period turns into a reprise of "The Russians

Are Coming. The Russians Are Coming.

We stay for the medal preparations but we are few. And then, in a very few thousand of us left, maybe 7,000 at best.

The rest choose to sit on the Peace Bridge and wait to clear customs rather than watch the Russian lack wear gold.

Well, here, joy is joy and it was here, here to watch the undiminished joy of the boys as they came to the full realization they were world champions. For many of them, this will stand out as the single most memorable performance of their life. And why not? They beat the favoured Canadians on what, basically, was their home soil.

Buffalo, Ont., indeed. Almost all the Russian boys behaved with class. One or two rude rude gestures to the fans, but they were overshadowed by the majority of teammates who gave away sticks and gloves to the kids who stayed to watch the medal presentations.

The preparations for this tournament began more than two-and-a-half years ago. As Michael Gilbert, director of public relations for the Buffalo Sabres explained to Buffalo's Eyewitness News recently, "We put a bid package together. Our owner, Tom Golman, made a seven-figure contribution to USA Hockey to win the bid and that helped."

The fact that we hosted the Winter Classic here, as well

as the support we have in Buffalo for our Sabres games is what put it over the edge and helped us seal the deal." And here, in the proximity to Canada and the thousands who would cross the Niagara River to come.

Visitors from around the world flocked to Western New York to more than 30 hockey games in 11 days. The economic impact of the region was estimated to come in as high as \$100 million.

So in the final analysis, the entire event was a huge success.

And here, we beat the U.S.

team to get to the gold medal game before losing to the Russians. Call it a tradeoff, seeing as how the U.S. beat us last year in Saskatoon in overtime to claim the gold.

Was it fun? Oh my God! It was the best Christmas gift anyone has ever given me. And parking prices were reasonable, not the gouging \$60 earlier in the tournament.

It was more than fun. It was a dream-come-true for a junior hockey fan.

And I have my best friend and game companion to thank for it.

George Duma is a resident of Port Colborne and has spent 30 years in the newspaper business. He becomes comments and column suggestions and can be reached at gduma@coegco.ca



GEORGE DUMA InPort News photo

The Canadian boys meet the Russian boys at centre ice after the conclusion of the gold-medal game. Class acts all around.

NOTICE TO CITIZENS APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

PORT COLBORNE

The City of Port Colborne is accepting applications from citizens for positions on boards and committees. The vacancies are due to the expiry of current appointments or resignations or insufficient applications in response to prior recruitments. Positions are available on the following Boards/Committees:

- Environmental Advisory Committee
- Port Colborne Public Library Board
- Seniors Advisory Council
- Property Standards Committee
- Canal Days Committee
- Port Colborne / Wainfeet Physician Recruitment, Retention and Medical Education Committee
- New Community Centre Advisory Committee
- Accessibility Advisory Committee

Appointments to fill expired terms will be for four years. Appointments to fill other vacancies will be for the term of the original appointment. Incumbent members whose terms are expiring are eligible to apply and to be reappointed to the same Committee provided they maintain the eligibility requirements.

On November 10, 2008, Council adopted a policy respecting appointments to boards and committees. This policy establishes the process relating to the recruitment, selection and appointment of members of the public to boards and committees and the City's expectations of such appointees. The policy requires that the successful applicants consent to the release by the City of their name and personal information relating to their education, qualifications and experience which is pertinent to the appointment. Council will release the name of an unsuccessful applicant only with the written consent of the applicant. Please visit the City's website www.portcolborne.ca to access the full text of the policy and a brief description of the mandate of the above Committees, etc.

Unless the terms of reference of the board/committee provide otherwise, applicants must:

- be eighteen years of age or older
- be a qualified municipal elector in the City of Port Colborne
- not be disqualified by the *Municipal Act, 2001, Municipal Election Act, 1996* or the *Planning Act*
- not be an employee of the City of Port Colborne or the board.

Applicants must provide sufficient information regarding their qualifications and related experience for Council to make an informed decision. The standard form of application is available on the City's website and/or from the Clerk's Office.

Applications in person, by e-mail or regular mail will be received by the undersigned up to and including January 28, 2011.

Ashley Grigg, City Clerk
City Hall, 66 Charlotte Street
Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 3C8
ashleyrigg@portcolborne.ca
(905) 835-2900 ext. 106

Personal information is collected under authority of the *Municipal Act, 2001* and pursuant to the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and will be used only to evaluate the suitability of applicants. Questions respecting the collection of information should be directed to the Clerk of the City of Port Colborne.

■ BUSINESS: April Jeffs invited to meet as small business owner

Wainfleet mayor meets with PM Harper



Supplied photo

Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs stands with Prime Minister Stephen Harper during his visit to Welland last week. Jeffs was invited to meet with Harper as a small business owner.

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — It's not every day you get a call from the Prime Minister's office or invited to sit with him at a business forum.

But Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs had both and got to sit down with Stephen Harper when he visited Welland last Friday.

"I was shocked," Jeffs said of the phone call and invitation.

She was one of eight people who were part of a business forum with the prime minister at Blue Star Restaurant.

"I was invited by Rick Dykstra (St. Catharines MP) to be part of the forum and talk about business and the economy," said the owner of April Jeffs Lakeside Studio in Wainfleet.

Not only did she talk about her business, but she also spoke about her husband Mike's business Jeffs Landscaping and Tree

Service.

"Referencing our businesses — landscaping and photography — we have both been in business for over a decade and have gained experience both through hands-on and education and had managed to increase our businesses to a point where we were able to change accordingly and invest Welland into our businesses," Jeffs told Harper on Friday.

"We didn't notice a decrease in our particular businesses right away and actually had a bit of false sense of security that we may not be affected. But toward the end of 2009, we began to notice a difference," she also told him.

While at the forum, Jeffs brought up comments from a Wainfleet business — D&D Diamond Cutting and Coring.

That business said the stimulus money spent by the federal government was

a good shot in the arm, but added the private sector still isn't spending money.

Even though she was looking at the business perspective, Jeffs took the opportunity with the prime minister to bring up municipal business.

She spoke about aging infrastructure, taxes and how federal government programs had helped out.

"We appreciate the federal government taking an active role with municipal government over the last few years," she said.

"It was a good discussion ... the prime minister listened to what we had to say."

Jeffs said Harper was "great" and was also "very funny," making a few jokes while talking with the group.

"He called me 'Your worship,'" she said, adding the prime minister wished her luck.

djohnson@wellandtribune.ca

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Knitting Classes: The 10-week Winter session starts Tues., Jan. 11th, 7 to 9

p.m. and Thurs., Jan. 13th, 1 to 3 p.m. For more information or to join the Knitters Club, call Vicki Fretz at 905-835-5373.

Small Hands Studio: Art Workshops for Children. With Kelly Langley Davies. Painting, drawing and sculpting, Mondays, 6 p.m. to June 27th. Each five-week session costs \$65.00. Save \$5.00 per child per session when you book two or more

siblings in the same session. Call Kelly at 905-834-8483 for more information.

Create with Kathleen: Adult art classes with Kathleen Thorsen of Stone House Art Gallery. Tuesdays, 10 to 12 noon, starting September 7th. Cost is \$10.00 per class, materials supplied. For more information, contact Kathleen by phone at 905-834-5784 or by e-mail at kathleen.thorsen@cogeco.ca.

Express Yourself Writer's Workshop: With facilitators

Kitty and Gary Roy. Thursdays, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Explore your own abilities to express your thoughts, emotions and dreams using the written word. Receive critiques on your works in a non-judgmental forum. Get practical information on getting published. For more information, contact the facilitators at groy10@cogeco.ca or call the Library at 905-834-6512.

Art in the Atrium: "The Subject is Clear: an Exhibition of Paintings in Pastel" by Ray Beecher. In the Atrium,

October 15, 2010 to January 15, 2011.

ONGOING

March of Dimes is celebrating its 60th Anniversary in 2011 and needs your help. The charity is seeking volunteers in Welland and Port Colborne to help support its Door-to-Door Campaign in January. Please join a sixty year tradition of generosity and help children and adults with disabilities in your community. We still need canvassers and captains to join the campaign. For more information or to volunteer

please call 1-800-263-3463 ext. 7705 or e-mail door2door@marchofdimes.ca. To learn more about March of Dimes' programs and services for people with disabilities, please visit www.marchofdimes.ca.

Alzheimer Society of Niagara Region Support Groups for Caregivers meets the first Tuesday of each month (except for July and August) at 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Ralejje Lodge, 277 Plymouth Rd., Welland. For more information call 905-687-3914.

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■ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Looking at future

South Niagara mayors to address gateway's key benefits

ALLAN BENNER
InPort News Staff

PORT ERIE — Port Colborne Mayor Vic Badaway wants to discuss the direction Niagara's economic development will be heading in the coming four years.

"With Niagara being designated by the province as a gateway economic centre ... what does that mean?" he says.

"It's a title, but what's the substance of it? What does it do for existing industry and how can it help attract new industry?"

On Thursday, Feb. 3, Badaway will be joined by Welland Mayor Barry

Sharpe, Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn, Wainfleet Mayor Al Jeffs, Fort Erie Mayor

Doug Martin and Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati to discuss efforts to bring prosperity back to the Niagara and the region as a whole.

The four chambers of commerce representing the six municipalities are teaming up to organize the annual Mayors of South

Niagara Luncheon, being held at Bridgewater Country Club on Gilmore Rd. in Fort Erie.

Badaway says the gateway economic centre designation could mean that communities in that area could offer new incentives to investors.

His efforts to bring another designation to the area — a designation as a "foreign trade zone" — could mean even more

incentives can be offered to new and existing industries, he says.

Those in charge of several issues Badaway plans to discuss during the luncheon. Sharpe will be briefly discussing the upcoming luncheon with Badaway a few months ago.

At the time, they decided that Badaway would set the agenda for the event, because he's participated in

the annual luncheon since the first was held in 2008 at the Day's Inn on Welland's Niagara St.

At that time, the event only included the mayors of Welland, Port Colborne, Pelham and Wainfleet.

Port Erie's mayor was invited to the next luncheon a year later. And this year, the event was expanded to include Niagara Falls' mayor.

Although Niagara Falls isn't

quite as far south as Welland and Pelham, Badaway says Diodati was invited for several reasons, including his connection to Welland — along with Port Erie — as a gateway economic zone.

With the gateway economic zone being Port Erie and Niagara Falls, and the gateway economic centre being Welland and Port Colborne ... it just makes sense to now start talking as one voice together."

Tickets for the event are \$20 each for chambers members, or \$25 for non-members.

They can be reserved by calling 905-732-7515.

abenner@wellandtribune.ca



Jim Diodati



Doug Martin



Dave Augustyn



Barry Sharpe

■ COURT: Firebomb incident

Port Colborne man to be represented by top gun lawyer

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

A Port Colborne man facing a number of charges, including careless use of a firearm, will be back in

court on March 2.

Ian Thomson, 53, is alleged to have fired a handgun on the morning of Aug. 22, 2010, in an attempt to ward off three suspects who were allegedly firebombing his home at 3499

Snider Rd., Port Colborne.

Thomson was in a Welland courtroom Wednesday morning and had his case remanded so his lawyer Edward Burlew, who was not present, could review disclosure evidence

from the Crown.

Burlew, from Thornhill, has 30 years' experience as a lawyer and is self-described as Canada's top gun specialty lawyer. He represents gun clubs and individuals facing licensing problems and changed with gun offences.

Burlew was interviewed about the case by a website called www.dailysplit.com. Video of the interview can be found at www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-Liu0NyD1o. The video includes what is pre-

sented as part of the attack at 604 of the clip.

At the time of the incident, Niagara Regional Police said Thomson had been alerted by the sound of glass shattering after the campfire he had lit at 6:30 a.m. on Aug. 22.

Security cameras at the home filmed three masked individuals throwing Molotov cocktails and yelling threats.

Police couldn't confirm the number of Molotov cocktails used at the scene, although a source said there were up to

six. Only three were thrown at the home. The purported video clip of the incident shows one of the firebombs landing inside a dog pen with one dog in a cage and another jumping into view near the flames.

When Thomson went outside his home, he is alleged to have fired off a warning shot or shots to scare off the three men.

After the incident, he was charged by Niagara Regional Police and the Crown laid three additional charges against him when he appeared in court in late November.

Two men were arrested in December in connection with the incident. Michael Giesler, 48, of Port Colborne, and Justin Lee, 19, of Welland, were each charged with arson disregard for human life. A third suspect is being sought.

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■ MINOR HOCKEY: Win Bracebridge AE Tournament

Port Colborne Bantam Sailors on a tear

For InPort News

PORT COLBORNE — The Port Colborne Bantam Sailors, a team of 13 players, went into Christmas break leading the Niagara District Local League, with a record of 13-1-1.

They entered the Bracebridge Bantam AE Tournament Dec. 18 with only one player and a goalie, determined to see if they can have similar success outside of Niagara.

In game one, they blanked Mariposa 6-0, earning Brenton Pyke-Day his fifth shutout of the season. Banner got a hat-trick.

Next up was a tournament skills competition. The Sailors won 2 of the 3 categories. Bucilli, Saltarrelli, Terreberry and Thewlles won the relay race and Thewlles won the puck handling competition.

In game two, they lost to Bracebridge 4-1 as injuries plagued them in the last two periods that shortened the bench even more, however with hard efforts from Eros and Williams they managed to score a goal and the points to pile them in the final championship game, a re-match against Bracebridge.



Supplied photo

Back row from left: Mike Kovacich (coach), Stephen Williams (trainer), Tim McGown (manager); middle row, from left: Michael Williams, Jacob Kovacich, Mitchell Eros, Jacob Saltarrelli, Brenton Pyke-Day, Troy Terreberry, and front row, from left: Robert Thewlles, Jordan Banner, Dallas McGown, Brenton Pyke-Day. Missing from the tournament and photo were Kyle Scott, Shad Robinson, John Weaver and Travis Bell.

They were a tired team and took full advantage of the couple hours before the championship game. In the dressing McGowan inspired the team to forget the last game and focus on "our game" this game.

With just two forward lines and three defensemen, they took the ice.

Knowing Bracebridge

would be over confident, scoring first and scoring big was the objective. Saltarrelli a doubtful starter for game 3, came through and netted the first two goals and then Saltarrelli finished up 100% on defense and made it 3-0 forcing Bracebridge to take their only timeout. Bracebridge, a good team and with a full

bench battled back and aggressively took control of the game. In the 2nd period they got a goal in the first minute.

Strong defense and goalies, including Pyke-Day kept Port in the game and then a timely goal midway in the period by Kovacich making it 4-1 reversed the momentum

and put the wind back in the sails for Port.

Halfway through the 3rd Thewlles got another goal. A huge 2-man penalty kill by Kovacich and Bucilli with a goal deflected by Terreberry and McGowan kept Bracebridge scoreless in the final frame. Banner and Bucilli (who had a four point

night) scored in the final minutes with Eros, Banner and Williams all contributing to the final score of 7-1 and winning the AE Tournament Championship. The boys are to be commended for their determination and fair play as tournament games go, it was a rough game and a well deserved win.

What is the importance of healthy eating for denture wearers?

The relation between significant tooth loss and the ability to chew fresh fruits, vegetables and meats, has a great impact on the nutritional value of one's diet. Toothless or partially edentulous individuals are at a higher risk of malnutrition. Edentulous individuals with poor nutrition intake may be at higher risk for a variety of diseases. For example those who consume little vitamin A are at a higher risk for various forms of cancer, heart disease and rheumatoid arthritis. Similarly the dietary deficiencies of vitamin E are associated with various cancers, heart and Parkinson's Disease and low vitamin C and thiamine levels lead to a reduced immune system function, cardiovascular disease, hypertension and nausea, constipation as well as appetite and weight loss. Another ill effect of a low nutrient diet is a loss of muscle mass and strength caused by inadequate intake of protein, which could further increase frailty. An increased intake of fat and cholesterol observed in toothless patients have been associated with obesity, diabetes mellitus, as well as atherosclerosis.

What can I do to prevent any of this happening to me?

Considering the vast implications of a low nutrient diet, it is worth acknowledging that nutritional balance and good health can be significantly improved and restored with the use of a well made denture, and a vitamin supplement regime planned by your doctor. A well made denture, will allow you to introduce back into your diet all the nutritionally loaded foods such as fresh fruits and vegetables, proteins and nuts that were avoided when chewing with an ill-fitting, poorly designed denture. Individuals with implant supported dentures, greatly improve their food choices by including more hard to chew foods that are rich in nutrients, therefore greatly improving their health status.

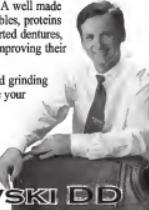
To switch to a more balanced diet may be as easy as having well fitted dentures, that allow for improved chewing and grinding function. The ability to better chew fruits, vegetables, meats and nuts will increase your nutrient intake and may decrease your risk of various disease. For more information see your Denturist.

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■ JOBS: Says highway would help Niagara

Hudak wants to revive mid-pen highway

GRANT LAFLECHE
QMI AGENCY

ST. CATHARINES — It's the road that would-be highway that just won't die.

After fading out of public

debate since the summer after a provincial study concluded it wasn't necessary, the mid-peninsula highway might make a comeback in the years up to the next Ontario election.

"I want to revive the mid-peninsula corridor," said Tim Hudak, Niagara West MPP and Member of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party. "It would create badly needed jobs

and economic growth for the region."

Hudak raised the issue of the highway at a meeting he proposed to link Port Erie to the Greater Toronto Area through the southern peninsula, last week while talking about his priorities in 2011.

Ontario was once a powerful economic engine, he said, but "now it's losing steam. The highway would not only create jobs, he said, but create

a vital transportation link for the region and the province.

The notion had support from local politicians, citizens and business leaders, but in the summer a draft study by the Ministry of Transportation said the four-lane super-highway won't be necessary for at least 20 years and suggested expanding existing highways instead.

Liberal St. Catharines MPP Jim Bradley poured

cold water on Hudak's idea Wednesday.

"We've invested heavily in the QEW to improve transportation in Niagara," Bradley said. "I think the report indicated clearly we don't need a new highway right now."

Walter Sendzik, general manager of the St. Catharines-Thorold chamber of commerce, long-time supporter of the proposed highway, said there was little point in using the project as a "political football."

"We do need the highway. It will create a great opportunity for Port Colborne and Fort Erie," he said. "But the report is right, I mean, how many millions has the government already spent on the QEW? Our view has been build what can be built now, in five to seven years, and go from there."

Sendzik said instead of trying to push the corridor through quickly, the best course of action is to first link Hwy. 406 to the Canada-U.S. border through Fort Erie.

Seeing how the H4K impacts transportation patterns will be critical in understanding what kind of new highways might be needed, he said. And even if building the mid-peninsula highway is the best possible solution, it cannot be built now.

"Any mega-project, and that is what this is, takes time. It is a long-term project that could take 25 years," he said. "It takes a long time for planning and development and funding and full environmental assessments."



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■ **PROMPTIVE:** Owners lay out concerns with township staff

Skydive Burnaby owners meet with mayor

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Skydive Burnaby owner Mike Jeffs and a member with town council and Mayor April Jeffs last week was productive in addressing his concerns about a planned wind farm west of the parachute club on Burnaby Rd.

"We had a good response from the mayor and staff," said Pitt, who was accompanied by his co-owner wife, April Jeffs.

The meeting was also attended by Wainfleet chief administrative officer Scott Luey and township planner Grant Munday.

"They said they are sympathetic to us and don't want to see our business go away. They are bringing a lot of people to Wainfleet and are a major attraction," Pitt said.

His club, which has between 150 and 200 members, will have up to 5,000 jumps made over the summer, with 2,700 of those being tandem jumps by first-time skydivers.

The club also has charity groups come in and perform jumps to raise funds. Niagara Peninsula Children's Centre Foundation has held the Partners in the Sky event there for the past 10 years.

The Pitts have owned the club

for the past 11 years and Mike worked as a volunteer on the board of directors for 10 years before that.

"I've been packing parachutes here since I was 10 years old," he said.

The couple is concerned jumpers from the club could become entangled in the towers or blades of the turbines as they will drift through the wind farm area at times when they jump west of the field. They are also concerned about the turbines being a hazard to birds, which will be developing the farm for Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc., owned by the Loofen family.

"We were told there are some things out of the township's hands," Pitt said.

Despite having spoken about the Green Energy Act ties the township's hands when it comes to the proposed project.

"All we can do is make comments on it," she said.

Despite having spoken about the Pitts' concerns about their concern, the mayor said she wanted to meet them face to face on the issue and get staff involved.

Jeffs said many Skydive Burnaby patrons have e-mailed the township with their comments over the proposed wind turbine towers.

"We are replying to them and are encouraging them to send their comments to IPC as well."

A public meeting will be held Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. in township hall. "It's a chance for the public to

comment and we'll include them when we make our submission to the province."

The Pitts were at council Tuesday to ask for a moratorium on wind farms in the township and

will hold a meeting Jan. 15, at 10 a.m. at Brethren-in-Christ Church, 10641 Hwy. 3. MPP Peter Kormos is expected to be at that meeting.

djohnson@wellandtribune.ca



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■ CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Annual awards

Nominations opened

PORT COLBORNE — Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce is looking for nominations for youth citizen of the year, citizen of the year, business of the year.

The awards are handed out each year at the chamber's President's Awards Reception, sponsored by Grant Thornton LLP. This

year's reception takes place Wednesday, March 2, at Rosedawn Centre.

Past youth citizen of the year winners include Kathleen East, Charlotte Hock and Matthew Flagg; past citizens of the year winners include Jane Nigh, Brent Kovach and Jane Feagan and past business of the year winners include

Tidyman Maintenance Ltd., J. Oskan Steel Fabricators Ltd. and Dundee Wealth Management.

For nomination forms and criteria contact the chamber at 76 Main Street W., Port Colborne, call 905-834-9765 or visit the website at www.wainfleetchamber.com.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, Jan. 28.

Supplied photo
A Port Colborne peewee hockey team travelled to Kimberley over the Christmas holidays for the tournament and came away as Peeewee Consolation Champions. Back row, from left: Lee, others, Rob Gagnon, Liam Cull, Alex Orowski, Evan Alfieri, Matt Santarolla, Adam Auger, Brent Gagnon, Andreas DeChelle, Joel Beauregard; middle row from left: Nick Cadwell, Joey Bucillo, Nik Beauregard, Emily Puchalski, Adam Poehlman; and front row from left: Tyler Carthew, Chris Orfert. Absent were Lucas Hoyle, Mackenzie Panunte, Tim Hoyle and Julie Puchalski.

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■ **QUICK LOOK:** 2011 Kia Optima hybrid

Optima jumps into hybrid segment

JOE DUARTE
QMI Agency

The all-new 2011 Kia Optima midsize sedan line-up jumps into the market with three models, including Kia's first ever hybrid.

Besides competing with more established players (thanks to a parallel hybrid system), the new Optima hybrid offers unique features - a lithium polymer battery and the ability to drive in electric mode up to 60 km/h.

The benefits of the lithium polymer battery are realized mainly in weight savings. Paired with the 30 kW battery pack, weighing just 43.5 kg (about 96 lbs.), or about 12.7 kg or 28 lbs. than the nickel metal hydride battery pack in the Toyota Camry. That allowed Kia engineers to not take up as much of the car's cargo space (which it still loses a split fold rear seat).

The Optima's electric motor is also separated from the transmission, which allows Kia to use existing components (such as the motor and transmission) rather than developing new, unique purpose ones. That should translate into better cost efficiencies, but will also allow the flexibility of adding more powerful electric usage down the road.

Electric assist for the steering means turning assist is available during electric mode driving (most systems are hydraulically powered off the engine so when the engine is shut down, there wouldn't be any assist available). The steering is also electrically assisted so it works when the engine isn't running and it also takes the load off the engine, resulting in an economy improvement.

The 2.4 litre engine has been modified to run on E85. At 60 km/h, fuel economy is up by 20% and reducing fuel usage by 10%. The resultant loss in torque is more than made up for by the electric motor.

Physical changes on the Optima hybrid include a low ride height, larger front and rear wheels, bumper and side sill changes, tallamp design and a rear spoiler. Underbody aero tuning, lower drag wheels and low rolling resistance tires,



Fact file: 2011 Kia Optima Hybrid

MSRP range: Est. \$28,000

Notable options: 17-inch alloy wheels; Panoramic sunroof; heated front and rear seats; heated rear seat; heated steering wheel; navigation system with rearview camera; premium sound system.

Powertrain: 2.4L 4-cyl. with 30 kW electric motor (net 203 hp/195 lb.-ft.)

Transmission: 6-speed auto with sequential shift

Fuel (capacity): Regular (55L)

Battery (capacity): Lithium polymer (5.3 Amperes hours)

Fuel economy ratings (L/100km): Est. 6.5 city/5.9 hwy.

Warranties: Exp. 5 years/100,000 km (comprehensive); 8 years/160,000 km (hybrid components)

Competitors: Chevrolet Volt; Ford Fusion; Hyundai Sonata; Nissan Altima; Toyota Camry.

and an active air flap system all contribute to a reduced coefficient of drag (just 0.26), which contributes to improved economy.

The hybrid is derived from the Optima LX trim level with a 2.4L four-cylinder engine. An extensive list of standard features includes power driver's seat, dual zone climate control, keyless entry and push button start, leather wrapped steering wheel and shift knob, and the now expected need to pay extra for technicians to its approach when it's travelling in electric mode.

A Premium Technology Package adds a panoramic sunroof, unique 17-inch alloy wheels, power front passenger's seat, driver's seat memory, heated front and rear seats, heated rear seat, steering wheel, HID headlights with automatic levelling, a navigation system with back-up camera and SIRIUS Traffic, and a premium sound system.